



PRESS RELEASE

Nord Stream's environmental report for the Finnish route section published

- **Environmental impact assessment report available for public review and comments**
- **EEZ-permit application submitted**
- **Pipeline Information Tour to present Nord Stream in five cities in conjunction with public hearings**

Helsinki, 9 March 2009. The environmental impact assessment report (EIA) for the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline system in the Finnish Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is made available for public display by the coordinating authority, the Uusimaa Environment Centre. Nord Stream has also submitted the permit application for the project according to the Finnish EEZ Act to the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

Starting today, the EIA report will be available for public review and comments until 5 May 2009 in 33 coastal municipalities of Gulf of Finland, municipalities of southern Finnish Archipelago and Åland. The report is also available on Nord Stream's website. As part of the public participation procedure, five public hearing events will be organized and chaired by the Uusimaa Environment Centre in March 2009.

During the public hearing period, Finnish authorities, citizens and other interest groups have the opportunity to state their opinions on Nord Stream's EIA report to the Uusimaa Environment Centre. After the public hearing period, the Uusimaa Environment Centre will collate the public statements and issue their own statement on the EIA report by July 2009.

In conjunction with the public hearing events Nord Stream will bring to Finland its Pipeline Information Tour – a bus designed to provide comprehensive information about the project. The bus will visit all the public hearing locations listed below, where hearings will be held from 18-00 till 20-00. Public is welcome at the bus, where Nord Stream experts will be available for discussions:

Helsinki, 10 March 2009, Wanha Satama, Pikku Satamakatu 3, from 2 pm

Turku, 11 March 2009, Forum Marinum, Linnankatu 72, from 1 pm



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Hanko, 12 March 2009, Town hall, Bulevardi 6, from 1 pm

Mariehamn, 16 March, Hotel Arkipelag, Strandgatan 31, from 2 pm

Kotka, 19 March, Datariina, Heikinkatu 7, from 1 pm

The environmental impact assessment report is a result of detailed environmental research conducted along the pipeline route and comprehensive consultation with the Finnish authorities and other interest groups.

National permits to construct and operate the pipeline are required in accordance with domestic legislation of those countries through whose waters the Nord Stream Pipeline will pass: Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany. The required permits in Finland are the consent granted by the Council of State in accordance with the EEZ Act (Act 1058/2004) and a permit for construction and operation according to the Water Act. (Act 264/1961). Nord Stream has also prepared a transboundary environmental report (Espoo report) in accordance with the UN Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. After the international consultation processes, Nord Stream's Espoo report was confirmed by the relevant authorities of nine Baltic littoral states for publication in February 2009. The Espoo report is published as an annex to the Finnish national EIA report and is also subject to the public participation process.

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Detailed information on the Nord Stream EIA and consultation procedures is available at: <http://www.nord-stream.com/fi/eia/permitting>.

Notes to editors:

Nord Stream is a natural gas pipeline that will link Russia and the European Union via the Baltic Sea. The European Union's gas imports were 314 billion cubic metres (bcm) in 2005 and are projected to grow by almost 200 bcm to 509 bcm per year by 2025 (Source: European Commission/DG-TREN, 2007). Nord Stream will meet about 25 per cent of this additional requirement by connecting the European gas pipeline network to the world's largest gas reserves. The project will be an important contribution to long-term security of supply and a milestone of the energy partnership between the European Union and Russia.



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Nord Stream AG plans to have the first of two parallel pipelines operational in 2011. Each line is approximately 1,220 kilometres long, providing a transport capacity of some 27.5 bcm per year. Full capacity of about 55 bcm per year will be reached in the second phase, when the second line goes on stream.

Nord Stream AG is an international joint venture established for the planning, construction and subsequent operation of the new offshore gas pipeline across the Baltic Sea. OAO Gazprom holds a 51 per cent stake in the joint venture. BASF/Wintershall Holding AG and E.ON Ruhrgas AG hold 20 per cent each, and N.V. Nederlandse Gasunie has a 9 per cent stake.

The UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) sets out the obligations of parties to assess the environmental impact of certain activities at an early stage of planning. It also lays down the general obligation of states to notify and consult each other on all major projects under consideration that are likely to have a significant environmental impact across national borders. The Espoo Convention was opened for signature in Espoo (Finland) on 25 February 1991 and came into force on 10 September 1997.

The international consultations, apart from five countries under whose jurisdiction the project is to take place (Russia, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Germany), also included Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. With the nine countries participating, the Nord Stream's Espoo process has become the biggest ever international consultation procedure on transboundary impacts.

Nord Stream's Espoo Report follows intensive dialogue with authorities throughout the Baltic region to ensure that the pipeline is safe and environmentally sound and in line with all national and international requirements. This international consultation process started for Nord Stream in spring 2006 and as of today 16 meetings with officials from the nine Baltic littoral countries have been held. Nord Stream has participated in more than 20 public hearings and took part in numerous public discussions and expert seminars.